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# North Carolina

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## September 2015



Division 11

COUNTIES SERVED | Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Caldwell, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin

### Gov. McCrory Appoints Nick Tennyson Secretary of Transportation



In early August, Governor Pat McCrory announced the appointment of Nick Tennyson as the new Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Tennyson previously served as Chief Deputy Secretary since March 2013, and succeeds Tony Tata.

**Nick Tennyson is sworn in as Secretary of Transportation**

"Nick Tennyson is the perfect choice to continue the momentum we have made in North Carolina's transportation strategy," said Governor McCrory. "He has been involved in planning all of our key transportation strategies over the last two and half years, and is equipped to hit the ground running to continue our progress."

Secretary Tennyson and the NCDOT team will continue to focus on expanding and safely maintaining our transportation network through the Governor's 25 Year Vision, support new funding strategies including the bonds to Connect NC, strengthen our ports to make our state more globally competitive and deliver other infrastructure projects to help grow the state's economy and create jobs. [Learn More](#)

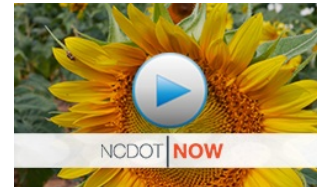
### New Bridge Over New River

A new bridge across the New River in Alleghany County is officially open, improving travel by land and water.



**A ribbon cutting officially opens the Farmer's Fish Camp bridge**

### Stay Connected



NCDOT Now

### NCDOT Now

On this week's NCDOT Now, NCDOT partners with the N.C. Department of Agriculture on creating pollinator habitats in wildflower beds, tickets available now for special train stops at the North Carolina State Fair and the Lexington Barbecue Festival in October, and ferry crews help rescue a father and son in Swan Quarter Bay. [Watch here.](#)

NCDOT Division 11 personnel and board member Jim Palermo joined officials from Alleghany County and the town of Sparta to cut the ribbon on Farmer's Fish Camp Road.

Flood waters in January 2013 washed away the low-level bridge that once spanned the river. However, NCDOT engineers say it was a stretch of relatively good weather that helped contractors from J.R. Vannoy and Sons of West Jefferson finish the new bridge several months ahead of schedule.

The new crossing is about five feet higher than the old one. "The new bridge is less likely to end up underwater, or get hit by storm debris," says NCDOT Division 11 Engineer Mike Pettyjohn. During construction, drivers were detoured into Virginia and back. "We're happy to get the road reopened ahead of schedule, and make it easier to get across the county."

Drivers aren't the only ones benefitting from a better bridge. The increased height will make it easier for kayakers and those in fishing boats to get under Famer's Fish Camp Road.

For more pictures of the bridge and ceremony, visit the [NCDOT Flickr gallery](#).

## **Division 11 Board Member: James Palermo**

Jim Palermo is a former Executive in Residence at Johnson and Wales University and a former Executive Vice President at Bank of America.



**James Palermo**

Since moving to North Carolina in 1976, he's been actively involved in civic and not-for-profit organizations. He's served as chairman of the Presbyterian Board of Trustees and chairman of the Charlotte Center City Partners board, which helped build upon the economic strength of the Center City and surrounding areas.

Palermo is co-founder and past chair of Neuro-Life, an organization raising and directing funds for brain cancer research and support programs for patients and families.

"It's a pleasure to represent the people of northwest North Carolina on the Board of Transportation," Palermo says. "We continue to see projects all around the division that increase safety, improve connectivity, and foster economic



## **Senasational Sunflowers**

Division 11's Roadside Environmental team has cultivated a golden pollinator palace on Interstate 74 near Mount Airy. See more pictures of bees and butterflies in this beautiful bed [here](#).

development. I'm excited about the opportunities ahead."

Palermo and his wife live in Boone. They have a daughter, a critical care nurse who also lives in Watauga County, and a son, who is a physician in Greensboro.

**Ken Ulmer**

Division 11 Communications Officer

Phone: (828) 251.6171

[kulmer1@ncdot.gov](mailto:kulmer1@ncdot.gov)

**Mike Pettyjohn, P.E.**

Division 11 Engineer

**James Palermo**

Division 11 Board Member

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